

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE:

WINSTAR,

Chapter 11

COPY

Debtor.

Case No. 01-1430

Tuesday, December 18, 2001 4:00 p.m.
Courtroom 6A

)

844 King Street Wilmington, Delaware

BEFORE: THE HONORABLE JOSEPH J. FARNAN, JR.

United States District Court Judge

APPEARANCES:

YOUNG, CONAWAY, STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLF

BY: PAULINE K. MORGAN, ESQ. BY: M. BLAKE CLEARY, ESQ.

and

SHERMAN & STERLY BY: MARK SHAPIRO, ESQ.

Counsel for the Debtors

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES, LLP BY: STEPHEN KAROTKIN, ESQ.

and

KLETT ROONEY

BY: RICHARD S. COBB, ESQ.

Counsel for DIP Lenders

1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
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3	THE BAYARD FIRM BY: NEIL CLASSMAN, ESQ.
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_	McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
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7	DY: MARK M. SELINGER, ESQ.
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8	BY: CHARLES H.F. GARNER, ESQ.
	Counsel for IDT Winstar
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18	Counsel for Univance
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20	·,, ·
	and
21	
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23	Counsel for Qwest Communication
	Corporation and Qwest Corporation
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4	and
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12	ASHBY & GEDDES BY: RICARDO PALACIO, ESQ.
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11	Communication Co., Edg
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19	ASHBY & GEDDES BY: REGINA A. IORII, ESQ.
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22	COZEN & O'CONNOR BY: SHELLEY KINSELLA, ESQ.
23	Counsel for Transamerica, et al
24	

5 .

1		
1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:	
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3	BY: JENNIFER KELLEHER, ESQ.	
4	Counsel for CIT	
5	nogramma wower accord to accord	
6	ROSENTHAL, MONHAIT, GROSS & GODDESS BY: EDWARD ROSENTHAL, ESQ.	
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8		•
9	REED SMITH, LLP BY: KURT F. GWYNNE, ESQ.	
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13	Counsel for Velocita	•
14	Counsel for verdeled	•
15	LOWENSTEIN SANDLER BY: PAUL KIZEL, ESQ.	
ļ6		
17	Counsel for AT&T Corp.	
18	Also Present:	•
19	Mr. Howard Jonas	
20	Mr. Gary Morgan Ms. Carolyn Hunter	•
21		
22		
23		·
2 4		
	1	

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THE CLERK: All rise.
1
2
                  THE COURT: Good afternoon.
   Mr. Shapiro.
3
                                 Good afternoon, Your
4
                  MR. SHAPIRO:
5
           Mark Shapiro from Sherman & Sterling for
   Honor.
    Winstar Communications, Inc.
 6
                  Your Honor, we're here for the
 7
8
   continuation from the hearing yesterday scheduled
9
   to approve an asset sale agreement. As Your Honor
10
    knows, when we appeared yesterday, we did not have
11
    a signed asset sale agreement with any bidder.
12
                  Just to recount history for one
13
   moment. Debtors held an auction at the office of
14
    Sherman & Sterling. The Debtors chose Wintel Led
15
    by Mr. Lawrence Zimmerman as the highest and best
16
    offer.
17
                  With the purchase price proposed of
18
    $85 million in cash and various assumption of
19
    certain liabilities.
20
                  Mr. Zimmerman, as part of that
21
    offer, agreed that he would deposit $15 million in
22
    an escrow account with Sherman & Sterling.
    Unfortunately, that did not come to pass. And as
23
24
    of yesterday morning, Wintel -- Zimmerman had
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2.1

never deposited any of the funds that were promised nor had the Debtor ever reached agreement, even in principal, with Mr. Zimmermac.

chambers conference with Your Honor to discuss the possibility to converting this case to Chapter 7 and I guess fortuitously, when we were out in chambers, IDT Corporation met with Arthur Newman and the president from the Blackstone Group to make an offer for purchase of substantially all of the assets of Winstar Communications. That offer was communicated on the record yesterday before Your Honor, which contained salient points, but remain subject to a definitive agreement to be negotiated and signed by the Debtor and by purchaser IDT Corporation or special purpose vehicle to be established by IDT.

At this point, I believe we just finished initialing all the changes and the only thing that remains to be done is to have IDT's representative sign the agreement, which I'm being told is going to happen at this very moment. And since we only have one copy that's actually marked up, I would ask Your Honor if we could sign the

```
agreement right now so we know we have a signed
1
2
    agreement.
                  THE COURT:
                               All right.
3
                  MR. GLASSMAN:
                                   I don't know who
4
5
    this is.
6
                  MR. SHAPIRO:
                                This is Mr. Charles
7
    Garner, executive of IDT.
                                Am I president of
                  MR. GARNER:
 8
 9
    the --
                  MR. SHAPIRO:
                                 Yes.
ΣU
                  In addition, I believe we have
11
12
    complete agreement of the management agreement,
    which is proposed to be signed not today, but at
13
    the closing which is proposed for tomorrow, but we
14
    have an agreement of a form of management. I
15
    don't know if Mr. Selinger could hand that up.
16
17
                  We also have agreement of a form of
18
    order although I do know that the FCC, I believe
19
    and the Justice Department were negotiating a few
    modifications to the order. I don't know if those
20
    were completed, but I suspect if they're not, we
21
    could complete them in very short order.
22
                  What I'd alike to do now, Your
23
    Honor, is as Your Honor knows, under the asset
24
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purchase agreement, the purchaser has requested
  1
     that the Debtors provide a topping fee, in the
  2
  3
     event that the higher and better offer was
     accepted and approved by this court.
  4
  5
                    The topping fee, which is contained
     in Section 6.10D of the asset purchase agreement
  Б
  7
     provides that as a condition to buyers obligations
  8
     here under -- sellers agreed to pay to buyer
  9
     amount equal to two and a half percent of the wash
 10
     payment.
               Cash payment for the record is $30
     million.
 11
 12
                    If this agreement is terminated
 ٤Ι
     other than as a result of default by the buyer and
 14
     the performance of the obligations hereunder,
     sellers shall enter into one or more sales
 15
     transactions and such transaction or transactions
 16
     should be consummated.
 17
 18
                    Being that, the placing of a funi-
 19
     into an escrow fund would not constitute receipt
 20
     by the sellers until the founder actually released
     to the sellers.
 21
 22
                  To summarize, two and a half percent
  of $30 million would be paid to them if a higher
24 and better offer is received. Obviously, the
```

```
1
    buyer should be saddled with any obligation that:
 2
    existed before we entered the scene is just
 3
    foreign as a matter of concept, and it's foreign;
    as a matter of the negotiated agreement.
 5
                  THE COURT:
                               Well, --
 б
                  MS. SILVERSTEIN: I'm sorry.
                                                  We
 7
    were not a part of the negotiations, and this is
    very different than a melt down. In a melt down
 8
    where we are now, we have a purchaser. It's a
    very different situation, and this purchaser is
ΤO
    trying to get the benefit of these contracts.
11
12
                  I doubt very seriously that they're
    going to be assuming the carrier contracts, but
13
14
    they are going to be getting the benefit, and then
    we'll reject them.
15
16
                  MR. ALBALAH:
                                 We are going to go in
17
    and say yes, yes, yes, no, no, no.
                                        When we say
18
    yes, we'll cure it and we'll assume any
19
    termination liability is going forward.
                                              It's
20
    typical cure.
                   I think everyone understands that
                             We're going to groom, say
21
    it's not controversial.
22
    reject, reject, reject.
                             From closing to
23
    rejection, we'll pay nothing else.
24
                  THE COURT:
                               Well, the question is
```

```
from closing to rejection if there's a termination
1
   cost, are you going to pay that?
2
                  MR. ALBALAH: No, because we are
3
   stepping in here to carry it and to decide if
4
    we're going to drop it or we're going to really
5
   keep it forever. If we assume it, we'll keep it:
6
    forever.
7
                  THE COURT:
                               What's your principal
8
    of payment under the contract that it would be
9
    operating on until you make that decision? That's
10
    the point.
11
                                 The principal of
                  MR. ALBALAH:
12
    payment?
13
                  THE COURT: Yeah. What they're
14
    saying is you can't take -- and I'm just using
15
    this as an example, you can't take a ten paragraiph
16
    contract and say, We only like Paragraph 3.
17
                  MR. ALBALAH: We are not assuming:
18
19
    the contract.
                               I understand that.
                  THE COURT:
20
    What are you --
21
                  MK, ALBALAH:
                                 How much are we
22
23
    paying?
                               Right.
                                        Where are you
24
                  THE COURT:
```

```
getting the number from?
1
                                 We said it in here
                  MR. ALBALAH:
2
   several times.
                               You're going to pay
                  THE COURT:
4
   under the agreement?
5
                  MR. ALBALAH:
                                 The rates charged,
6
    exactly right. We will pay the rates charged, the
7
    *rates charged by service providers for such
R
    services shall not exceed the rates for those
 9
    services in effect as of the date of this sale
10
    order".
11
                  We are taking the agreement.
12
    They're going to continue providing, we will pay
13
    that rate.
14
                  THE COURT: And if there's a
15
    thousand customers and 500 terminate and there's a
16
    termination fee, is that part of the rate?
17
                                  No. We are not
                  MR. ALBALAH:
18
    paying the termination fee. We are not paying the
19
    discontinuation fee. We're not paying the
20
    disconnect fee.
21
                   Conceptually we are simply saying we
22
    are going to solve the problem of an orderly
23
    migration, and I think if I -- if I'm not being
24
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```
articulate, please understand me, the reason why
1
   I'm saying please tell me is I want to make sure
2
   everyone understands it. I say that in the spirit
3
    that I don't understand the concept of anyone
4
    looking to the buyer to pay a termination
5
    discontinuation or disconnect fee.
ĸ
                  If you understand what we're doing
 7
    it's just foreign.
 8
                               The more likely
                  MR. JONAS:
 9
    scenario is SBC does business in let's say 20
1.0
    states, you know, with Ameritech. So we may
11
    decide we're going to keep Chicago and Dallas, aid
12
    we may decide we're not going to keep San
13
    Antonio.
14
                  So then we say, okay, we reject Sah
15
              We don't think that we should be charged
    Antonio.
16
    a disconnect charge on San Antonio because we have
17
    the right to disconnect the contract.
18
    that they have a monopoly that goes over 20 states
19
                      That they were just one company
    isn't our fault.
20
    and we rejected, now we understand if we accept
21
    Dallas and there's a past due on Dallas, we have
22
    to cure the past due in order to keep, you know,
23
    the contract past 120 days or whatever.
24
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But it's -- you know, to say that you've got to get penalized because you rejected the contract and in any one city goes against the whole spirit of the agreement.

MR. SHAPIRO: Your Honor, as you may recall, we actually had a briefing on this similar issue of this case, which hasn't been ruled on yet, which is whether or not corn chronic for circuits that we had previously terminated during the case would constitute either unsecure! claims, which is the Debtors' position or whether they would constitute administrative claims, which was the position of the argyles.

I think at best they have an adminclaim against the estate if we do this, which is their position in their papers that they filed with the Court. They do not have a claim against the buyer.

MR. SHERMAN: Andrew Sherman for Qwest Corporation, Qwest Communications. I think that issue, Mr. Shapiro, was an issue relating to Qwest. But I reiterate the position of Ms. Silverstein. If this is and if they're going to get the benefit of the contract, they're going

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to -- I mean, what Your Honor did in this order is
I
   direct the service providers to comply under the
2
    terms of the agreement.
3
                  So we're complying under the terms
4
    of the agreement. We're directed to do that, but
5
    we don't get the benefit of it. It just doesn't
б
    make sense.
7
                                 I neglected to point
                  MR. ALBALAH:
8
    out another fundamental thing, and please tell mix
9
    if I'm missing something. If we don't do this
ıυ
    deal and we walk out of the courtroom right now,
11
    there will be no money to keep this company
12
    alive. It will convert, whatever, but the FCC
13
    very well may, as Your Honor I know has been
14
    alluding to, compel the carriers from providing
15
    service, whether it's 31 days, or 35 days, or
16
    whatever it is.
17
                                 Your Honor, what is
                  MR. SHERMAN:
18
    the relevance of that to whether the termination
19
    charges are valid? I mean, they're going to --
2 0
                              The question that Qwest
                  MR. JONAS:
21
    is bringing up, and I'm sure that Verizon is going
22
    to bring up is the same thing that SBC is bring
23
    up, that there's a variety of DS-3, OC-3's, OC-J.
24
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```
every kind of line all over the place.
1
                  Some of those lines are going to be
2
   valid, and some, you know, are not going to be
3
           Now, it could have been that we would have
   valid.
4
   bought them from 30 different companies, but in
5
   this case, the way Winstar worked, they sort of
6
   concentrated and they bought it from a couple of
 7
   companies.
 8
                  If we decide that we want to keep
 9
    the lines from New York to Boston or we want to
10
    keep the lines from Boston to Dallas, okay, after
11
    a certain period of time, we have to cure what we
12
                       But if we decide we don't want
    owe on that line.
13
    to keep the line going from Cleveland to, you
14
    know, Iowa, we shouldn't be charged a termination
15
16
    charge.
                  It's just a contract that we are
17
    rejecting. It's just a contract that we're
ıβ
    deciding not to keep, and that's the spirit of the
19
20
    agreement.
                  MR. SHERMAN:
                                  As Mr. Jonas knows,
21
    there are hard costs absorbed when you terminate a
22
    circuit. There's either manual labor that has to
23
    go out and actually absorb the cost of
24
```

```
termination. I don't think it's just switching a
1
2
   switch.
                  The cost that the carrier has to
3
    incur, some of it, from what I understand from
4
    what my client, you know, better than I, is
5
    sometimes you have to go out to a circuit.
 6
    it's in collace (phonetic) space, you have to turn
7
    it off.
8
                               It's your collace
                  MR. JONAS:
 9
    space, which costs money to send personnel to do
10
    that.
11
                  MR. ALBALAH:
                                If the carriers would
12
    prefer us not do the deal.
13
                  MR. JONAS: I'm not playing Russian.
1.4
    Roulette here. I don't want to play that game.
15
                  The spirit of the contract is the
16
    contract that we keep, we pay for, and we cure.
17
    The ones that we reject, we just reject.
18
    what, what may be if they want to play it like the
19
    other way. I'll play it the other way.
20
                  We'll pay all the termination
21
    charges, but anything that we decide to accept,
22
    let's forget the cure amount and then, you know,
23
    that's okay with me, too, if they would rather
24
```

```
have it that way.
ı
                                     Your Honor, this
                  MS. SILVERSTEIN:
2
   purchaser is getting the benefit of these
3
   contracts. This court is ordering us to perform
   under them for the benefit of this.
5
                  THE COURT:
                               No. I'm not going to
б
   do that. What I'm going to do is I'm going to
7
    call the providers bluff. I've worked pretty
    diligently with everyone to try to get value out
9
    of this. I'm willing to let the providers take
10
    their positions.
11
                  And Mr. Jonas is a business man.
12
    He's the only one in the courtroom making sense,
13
    not the lawyers.
14
                  I'm not going to put him in a
15
    situation where you all have sold your legal
16
    arguments without the benefit of the business
17
    advice of your clients.
18
                   1 think if Mr. Jonas sat down with
19
    your clients, you would find that your clients
20
    would be amazed at the arguments that you're
21
    making, and they'd rather talk to Mr. Jonas and do
22
23
    a deal.
                   But what I'm going to do is I'm
24
```

```
going to reject the order as it's framed, and
1
   because I see all the folks lined up, I'll just
2
   agree with all your positions, and somebody will
3
   be happy because you're competitors of Mr. Jonas,
   so you'll go out in the marketplace, and you'll
5
   knock heads. And the rest of you will suck wind.
6
                  It's too easy and Mr. Jonas will
7
    save himself a lot of aggravation trying to save a
8
   business. So I'm going to reject the order as
9
    framed.
10
                  If you get something different, get
11
    back to me.
12
                  All right. We'll be in recess.
13
                   (Court was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.)
14
15
16
17
1.8
19
20
21
22
23
24
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State of Delaware
1
   New Castle County
2
3
4
5
             CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
 6
 7
             I, Heather M. Alford, Registered
 8
   Professional Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby
 9
    certify that the foregoing record, Pages 1 to 256
10
    inclusive, is a true and accurate transcript of my
11
    stenographic notes taken on December 18, 2001, in
12
    the above-captioned matter.
13
14
        IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15
    hand and seal this 27th day of December, 2001, at
16
17
    Wilmington.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
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